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“Scramble for Africa” Simulation

**Step 1**: Receive your country assignment (you should have two or three European countries) and gather with your classmates that have the same assignment. For example, if you have been assigned Britain and the Netherlands, you will get in a group with classmates who have also been assigned Britain and the Netherlands.

**Step 2**: With your group members gather information about the goals that your nations has for colonizing Africa. Using atlases, role cards and colored pencils, you will color in your map of Africa with the territories that you hope to secure during the Scramble for Africa simulation. For example, if your role card says that your European nation hopes to establish colonies in the area east of Lake Chad, then color in the area that is east of Lake Chad. Don’t forget that you can use your atlas to help you find African geographical features!

**Step 3**: Simulate! You will be placed in groups of three or four with another blank map of Africa (just one per group). Each country that participated in the actual Scramble for Africa will be represented in your group. You will be given a list of historical events that occurred from 1500 – 1895. As you read each event, color in the map to represent the new colonial boundary that exists. You will need to use an atlas to find African geographical features. Once all of Africa has been divided into colonial territories (map is completely colored-in), your simulation is complete.

**Step 4**: Complete the simulation reflection questions on a separate piece of paper. Feel free to work with your simulation group!

Simulation Reflection

1. How close is your map to the real map of European imperial control in 1914? Are your boundaries right? Are your proportions right?
2. What factors did you consider in acquiring territories?
3. What factors were totally ignored in your decisions?
4. Compare the real map of European imperial control with the current political map of Africa (use your atlas). Do you notice any similarities?
5. Your decisions created colonial boundaries that will eventually become the borders of African countries. What problems do you think you might have created by dividing up Africa based on Europeans needs and goals rather than African ones?